

October 13, 2003

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Michael Powell,

I am writing to voice my opposition to any FCC-mandated adoption of "broadcast flag" technology for digital television. As a consumer and citizen, I feel strongly that such a policy would be bad for innovation, consumer rights, and the ultimate adoption of DTV.

A robust, competitive market for consumer electronics must be rooted in manufacturers' ability to innovate for their customers. Allowing movie studios to veto features of DTV-reception equipment will enable the studios to tell technologists what new products they can create. This will result in products that don't necessarily reflect what consumers like me actually want, and it could result in me being charged more money for inferior functionality.

If the FCC issues a broadcast flag mandate, I would actually be less likely to make an investment in DTV-capable receivers and other equipment. I will not pay more for devices that limit my rights at the behest of Hollywood. Please do not mandate broadcast flag technology for digital television. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Victor Lewis
213 Beechtree Drive
Cary, NC 27513
USA

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445 12th Street, NW
Washington D.C. 20554

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Sincerely,

Tim Zielinski
2482 S. 99th Street
West Allis, WI 53227
USA

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Sincerely,

Charles Ulrich
2345 N. Harrison
East Lansing, MI 48823
USA

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Sincerely,

Janella Slaga
2895 Harrison St. #3
San Francisco, CA 94110
USA

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Stephen Anspach
12342 Montana Ave #7
Los Angeles, CA 90049
USA

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Chad Russell
401 McElroy Dr
Oxford, MS 38655
USA

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Benjamin Despres
80 Webster Ave
Bangor, ME 04401
USA

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Michael Sattler
53 States Street
San Francisco, CA 94114
USA

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John Saunders
20904 Birchwood St
Farmington, MI 48336
USA

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Sincerely,

Jason Fritcher
2445 E Del Mar Blvd #227
Pasadena, CA 91107
USA

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Sincerely,

Craig Hughes
152 Wayside Rd.
Portola Valley, CA 94028
USA

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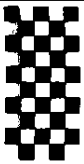
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Sincerely,

Lance Herron
4815 Westgrove #1707
Addison, TX 75001
USA



Roger Beebe
1210 NW 3rd Ave.
Gainesville, FL 32611
32601-4911

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Michael K. Powell:

As a professor of media studies, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to vote against the adoption of a "broadcast flag." I am outraged that the FCC would consider a regulation would restrict the way I employ television, both in my scholarship and in my everyday consumption.

The broadcast flag is neither in my interest nor the public's interest. It will prevent me from watching digital broadcast television in the ways I currently enjoy analog broadcast television—for example, it will restrict my ability to move the video I have recorded for personal viewing from room-to-room and place-to-place. The classroom experience in many of my classes would be significantly diminished—imagine not being able to show my students clips of the Rodney King footage in a class about race and television, for example.

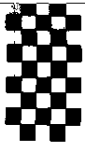
The broadcast flag will also lock out my computer as a way to watch my favorite shows using my choice of software on a plane or train, or to send a television clip of a high school football game to family and friends.

Furthermore, if computers cannot freely receive digital television, how can I expect creative developers to discover new devices that enable me to use content in exciting ways I haven't even thought of? I value innovative devices like TiVo, ReplayTV and the Windows Media Center PC, which exist today because they were built to open standards using inexpensive, off-the-shelf computer parts.

If the move to digital television does not make the public's viewing experience more enjoyable, flexible, and exciting, what compelling reason do I have as a consumer to buy new digital television equipment? A prettier picture is hardly enough reason for me to dispense with all my current consumer electronics and computer equipment. As a citizen and viewer of broadcast television, I urge you to promote the digital television transition by opposing adoption of the broadcast flag.

Sincerely,

Roger Beebe



rex henderson
717-106 sw 75th st
gainesville, fl 32607

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Michael K. Powell:

Thousands of American consumers have already expressed their opposition to the FCC's adoption of a "broadcast flag". I am writing to join them. As a user of open-source software, adoption of the broadcast flag will mean I am unable to receive digital television broadcasts on my computer.

Adopting the broadcast flag will make the FCC stand for "Federal Computer Control" which is outside its proper role. It is not the FCC's place to effectively choose the software licenses or computer operating systems that consumers must use in order to watch digital television broadcast on their computers.

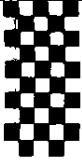
Additionally, adoption of the broadcast flag will harm innovation. Many users of open-source software are computer programmers and "tinkerers" who work to improve the software. Their contributions and constant innovation is what makes open-source software able to compete in the marketplace.

The broadcast flag rule advocated by the MPAA will ban open-source implementations of VSB and QAM modulators and demodulators, preventing open-source programmers from innovating in field of digital communications techniques used by television.

Most Americans assumed that when television became digital, viewers would be able to do more with television programming, not less. Without innovative new products and flexibility in the ways consumers are able to watch TV, consumers will be less inclined to invest in the equipment to view digital television. Therefore, the broadcast flag is likely to slow adoption of digital television in addition to making it illegal to watch digital television on a computer using open-source software. It is for these reasons I urge you to promote the digital television transition by opposing adoption of the broadcast flag.

Sincerely,

rex henderson



Jodell Bumatai
POB 594
Santa Cruz, CA 95061

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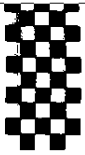
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Sincerely,

Jodell Bumatai



Doug Addison
1308 Sloane Boulevard
Plainfield NJ07060

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Michael K. Powell:

The tenents of free enterprise must never encroach upon our rights as Americans as guaranteed by the cosntitution.

When the founding fathers declared us as a nation based on the blessings of liberty, they declared us free of all such oppression; doubtlessly they would view such actions contemplated on behalf of commercial interests as overreaching the public good. Moreover, these times of economic scarsity require a new liberty in creating and pursuing wealth, not opressionist restrictions on behalf oh those unable to address the change otherwise and more effectively.

Remember your mandate to serve and who pays for your service: we the people.

Sincerely,

Doug Addison



Jonathan Yavner
330 Rhode Island Ave.
Cherry Hill NJ 08002

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Washington, D.C. 20554

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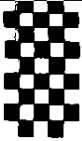
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Sincerely,

Jonathan Yavner



Michael Napier
4458 282nd St
Toledo, OH 43611

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Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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My family currently uses a free software program, MythTV, to record and view TV programs. The computer we use this on is a very cheap PC that I put together myself from various spare parts I have collected. TiVo is an option from my satellite provider but it costs almost \$600.00. My family is on a limited budget. I built the MythTV box myself for under \$150.00 and, of course, the software was free.

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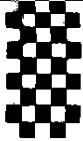
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Sincerely,

Michael Napier



Paul Ruel
440 Lake Shore Drive
Duxbury, MA 02332

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Michael K. Powell:

As a broadcast television viewer and consumer of electronics and computer products, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to vote against the adoption of a "broadcast flag." I am outraged that the FCC would consider a regulation would restrict the way I enjoy television.

The broadcast flag is neither in my interest nor the public's interest. It will prevent me from watching digital broadcast television in the ways I currently enjoy analog broadcast television—for example, it will restrict my ability to move the video I have recorded for personal viewing from room-to-room and place-to-place.

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If the move to digital television does not make the public's viewing experience more enjoyable, flexible, and exciting, what compelling reason do I have as a consumer to buy new digital television equipment? A prettier picture is hardly enough reason for me to dispense with all my current consumer electronics and computer equipment. As a citizen and viewer of broadcast television, I urge you to promote the digital television transition by opposing adoption of the broadcast flag.

Sincerely,

Paul Ruel



Donald C. Wolski
P.O. Box 420
Bayside, CA 95524

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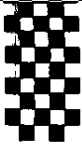
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Donald C. Wolski



Gregory Dearborn
24 Ponce St
Portland, ME 04101

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445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D C. 20554

Dear Chairman Michael K. Powell:

As a consumer, I am deeply concerned that the Federal Communications Commission is considering the adoption of a "broadcast flag," as requested by the MPPA. This is an idea that serves the Motion Picture industry, but is not in the public's interest nor the computer industry's interest. The best thing the FCC could do for the public is to stand up to the MPAA and tell them unequivocally, "No broadcast flag, now or ever, end of discussion!"

I have been waiting a long time to upgrade my home entertainment system to digital. Part of the ideal of digital television is that it can be stored on devices built from off the shelf home computer technology. For example, as you know a TiVo video recorder is essentially a home computer running the Linux operating system that has been dedicated to function as a video recorder. Next generation devices will integrate the functions of a digital video recorder with desktop or laptop computers, video game consoles, and PDAs. It is good for the computer industry and good for consumers if these devices can work using any computer operating system, including Free Software operating systems such as Linux. By allowing a broadcast flag and mandating that software systems use it as intended, the FCC would be sounding the death knell to Free Software. No computer, PDA, console, or other digital system running a Free OS would be possible. This will limit consumer choice and innovation in the computer software developer community. Just few years ago TiVo, ReplayTV, and the Windows Media Center PC didn't exist, but now they are changing the way consumers can enjoy broadcast television. Who knows what further innovations could come out of the Free Software Community and the Computer industry in the next few years? No one will, because the broadcast flag will hamstring innovative development in the home video arena.

The vision of computer/home video convergence is that in the very near future, consumers will be able to store high quality digital video to watch at a time and place convenient for them. Who wouldn't like to keep a video clip of their child hitting a home run grabbed from the local evening news on their PDA? Or be able to download their favorite broadcast sitcom, drama, or news show to their laptop to watch on their morning commute? Who wouldn't like to be able to grab digital video shows from their cable and send it by their home computer network to combination television/computers in whatever room they wanted to watch it on, whenever they wanted to watch it? The MPAA would like to kill all of these possibilities by their selfish demand for a broadcast flag. They are anxious that people will grab entire television programs and share them with friends and strangers. This is an unrealistic fear because the internet bandwidth available to consumers is not large enough to make this enticing to most people. But even if a small percentage of HDTV video pirates traded shows, would this really harm the Motion Picture industry? As you remember, the MPAA also lobbied against VCRs when they were just becoming popular with consumers. As it turned out, the VCR was the best thing to happen to the Motion Picture industry.

If the move to digital television does not make the public's viewing experience more enjoyable, flexible, and exciting, what compelling reason do I have as a consumer to buy new digital television equipment? A prettier picture is hardly enough reason for me to dispense with all my current consumer electronics and computer equipment. As a citizen and viewer of broadcast television, I urge you to promote the digital television

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Sincerely,

Gregory Dearborn



Ron Achin
23 Houde St.
Marlboro, MA 01752

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Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
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Dear Chairman Michael K. Powell:

As a broadcast television viewer and consumer of electronics and computer products, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to vote against the adoption of a "broadcast flag." I am displeased that the FCC would consider a regulation would restrict the way I enjoy television, and markedly restrict the options available to the computer industry.

The broadcast flag is neither in my interest nor the public's interest. It will prevent me from watching digital broadcast television in the ways I currently enjoy analog broadcast television—for example, it will restrict my ability to move the video I have recorded for personal viewing from room-to-room and place-to-place. Not to mention limit my creativity in creating derivative works.

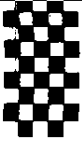
The broadcast flag will also lock out my computer as a way to watch my favorite shows using my choice of software on a plane or train, or to send a television clip of a high school football game to family and friends.

Furthermore, if computers cannot freely receive digital television, how can we expect creative developers to be motivated to create new devices that enable me to use content in exciting ways I haven't even thought of? I value innovative devices like TiVo, ReplayTV and the Windows Media Center PC, which exist today because they were built to open standards using inexpensive, off-the-shelf computer parts.

If the move to digital television does not make the public's viewing experience more enjoyable, flexible, and exciting, what compelling reason do I have as a consumer to buy new digital television equipment? A prettier picture is hardly enough reason for me to dispense with all my current consumer electronics and computer equipment. As a citizen and viewer of broadcast television, I urge you to promote the digital television transition by opposing adoption of the broadcast flag.

Sincerely,

Ron Achin



Justin Gombos
2730 San Rafael Ave SE
Albuquerque, NM 87106

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Michael K. Powell:

Thousands of American consumers have already expressed their opposition to the FCC's adoption of a "broadcast flag". I am writing to join them. As a user of open-source software, adoption of the broadcast flag will mean I am unable to receive digital television broadcasts on my computer.

Adopting the broadcast flag will make the FCC stand for "Federal Computer Control" which is outside its proper role. It is not the FCC's place to effectively choose the software licenses or computer operating systems that consumers must use in order to watch digital television broadcast on their computers.

Additionally, adoption of the broadcast flag will harm innovation. Many users of open-source software are computer programmers and "tinkerers" who work to improve the software. Their contributions and constant innovation is what makes open-source software able to compete in the marketplace.

The broadcast flag rule advocated by the MPAA will ban open-source implementations of VSB and QAM modulators and demodulators, preventing open-source programmers from innovating in field of digital communications techniques used by television.

Most Americans assumed that when television became digital, viewers would be able to do more with television programming, not less. Without innovative new products and flexibility in the ways consumers are able to watch TV, consumers will be less inclined to invest in the equipment to view digital television. Therefore, the broadcast flag is likely to slow adoption of digital television in addition to making it illegal to watch digital television on a computer using open-source software. It is for these reasons I urge you to promote the digital television transition by opposing adoption of the broadcast flag.

**** I will boycott by not buying or viewing a digital television ****

Sincerely,

Justin Gombos



James Gregory Davidson
6231 Branting Street
San Diego, CA 92122

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Michael K. Powell:

My father-in-law was bed-ridden for the last year of his life. We got him a TIVO, which allowed him to personalize and time-shift the television he spent so much of his time watching. The TIVO uses Linux, an Open Source software system.

This is only one excellent application of Open Source and innovation which would be destroyed by the adoption of a "broadcast flag". Please oppose this erosion of fair use and consumer control of their television viewing. This ill-considered device will not stop piracy, it will simply subject American citizens to the control of media corporations who would like them to become passive consumers glued to the tube.

Sincerely,

James Gregory Davidson